

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER"

By Evangelist John R. Rice

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Ex. 20:12).

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3).

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Col. 3:20).

"And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death" (Ex. 21:17).

"He that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death" (Ex. 21:15).

I. God's Stress on Honoring Parents

The proper attitude of sons and daughters toward their parents is of vast importance, as will be seen by a careful study of the Scriptures on this subject.

1. How striking that this command is in the Ten Commandments!

In this summary of God's laws there are only ten commandments. Four of them have to do with one's duty to God. Six of them have to do with one's duty to mankind. Only six commandments sum up all human duty toward mankind. And one of these six is the command, "Honour thy father and thy mother." Along with the basic commands against murder, against adultery, against stealing, against lying, against covetousness, is this command, "Honour thy father and thy mother." How fundamental, how important in God's sight is the duty of children to honor their parents!

But wait! This command is not only one of the six commands regarding man's relationship to man. It is the very first of them. "Honour thy father and thy mother" comes before "Thou shalt not kill." It comes before "Thou shalt not commit adultery." This is the very first of the commands about human relationship. After one is right with God and pleases God, the next most important thing in all the world is to be right with one's own father and mother.

And this is the first of the Ten Commandments with a promise of special blessing. There is a solemn warning in the command against bowing down to idols, "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Ex. 20:5). But there is no promise. The first command with a promise is this command. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days

may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." And when this same command is quoted by divine inspiration in Ephesians 6:2, the Holy Spirit calls attention to this solemn fact that this is the first command with a promise. In some sense God seems to have put this command about honoring parents at the very head of the list of human duties toward mankind. One's duty to God, his obligation to God, is greater than his duty to anybody else. Naturally so. But one's duty to his father and mother is greater than his duty to anybody else in the world. And the duty of honoring father and mother is, if possible, even more important than the duties expressed in the other commandments following the fifth commandment. Surely God means to leave the impression that if one honors father and mother as he ought, other duties are likely to be observed and other commands obeyed.

2. This command is carefully repeated in the New Testament. It is notable that one of the Ten Commandments, that regarding the Sabbath, is not repeated in the New Testament. In fact, Colossians 2:14-17 plainly lists the Sabbath along with other ceremonial laws which were nailed to the cross of Christ. They were "the shadow of things to come." The ceremonial law is not binding on New Testament Christians. And the Sabbath sums up, in some sense, the ceremonial law.

But it is not so about the fifth command, "Honour thy father and thy mother." In the magnificent Epistle to the Ephesians (Eph. 6: (Continued on page two)

The Last Laugh

By Rev. H. A. Ironside, D.D., Litt.D.
Pastor Moody Memorial Church, Chicago

(Preached in Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Sunday night, May 23, 1943. Stenographically reported for The Sword of the Lord).

I want to call your attention to two verses in the sixth chapter of Luke's gospel, verse 21 and verse 25, words uttered by our Lord Jesus Christ when He was here on earth: "Blessed are ye that hunger now; for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now; for ye shall laugh." "Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep."

There is an old adage which says, "He laughs best who laughs last."

Laughter, like speech, is one thing that distinguishes the human race from all the lower animals. Sometimes certain of the lower creatures can be taught to utter sounds that resemble laughter. We have heard parrots that could imitate the laughter of human beings. But there was no joy in their hearts. It was only mimicry. There is a bird out in Australia that bears the poetical title of the "laughing jackass." Sometimes people hear it in the woods and they imagine that somebody must be very, very near to them because of the laughter of this bird that resembles very much the human laughter. But none of the lower creatures really laugh. It is only man who can laugh.

We may think of laughter in several ways. Laughter ordinarily speaks of joy and gladness. We laugh when we are happy. We laugh when we are glad. It is natural for us to do so. And God's Word recognizes that. It says that "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." I run across some professed Christians who are so holy they can't laugh. They always have long faces. They look with great disapproval on anyone



DR. H. A. IRONSIDE

who laughs. If I happened to be a rancher that was raising chickens, I would want a lock on my chicken house door when folks of that kind were around. I do not believe much in the integrity of those who can't indulge in a good honest laugh for sheer joy of heart.

"He Who Laughs Best . . ."

You remember we have a beautiful instance of that, the laughter of gladness, in the case of Sarah, Abraham's wife. It was at first a laugh of doubt, and then a laughter of gladness when the angel came and said she was to be the mother of a child. She was already well onto ninety years of age, when she heard the announcement made to Abraham who was nearly a hundred. We read that Sarah laughed in her tent. She couldn't believe it. It was too good to be true. And she laughed—she laughed in a certain sense derogatively. It was the laughter of unbelief. The angel asked, "Wherefore did Sarah laugh?" Sarah said, "I didn't laugh?" "You did," was the reply, but God is going to fulfill His promise and He will give you a son, and when he is born you shall call his name "Laughter." That is what Isaac means. He was going to fill her heart and her home with joy. What joy they had when that promise was actually fulfilled, and the aged Sarah clasped in her arms her darling baby boy! I have no doubt many times people must have laughed when she and Abraham spoke of the son who was coming and talked about the (Continued on page five)



John R. Rice-J. Stratton Shufelt, Duet, singing "O Love of God."

REVIVAL ECHOES FROM THE CLEVELAND INQUIRY ROOM

"Rejoicing in the presence of God"

By Rev. Gerald V. Smelzer,
Superintendent Cleveland Hebrew Mission.
In charge of Inquiry room, Rice-Shufelt Campaign, Cleveland, Ohio.
Feb. 11-Mar. 11, 1945.

Heaven was bending low with expectancy over a certain room behind stage at the Cleveland Public Auditorium during those wonderful nights of revival as burdened and weary souls found rest in the Saviour.

Then Heaven and earth raised a glad cry as penitential tears gave way to tears of joy and exclamations of triumph filled that room from rejoicing hearts of sinners now made saints through the operation of the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ.

Under the Spirit-driven messages of Dr. Rice given with Apostolic fervour and power, there just had to be a moving God-ward. It was not unusual to see elderly men and women, husbands and wives, sweethearts, many young people and serious faced children streaming into the inquiry room.

The blessed task of personal

workers was greatly simplified by the clarity of the messages delivered and the clear-cut invitations given.

Come with me to the inquiry room as Brother Rice pleads with outstretched arms and broken heart for sinners and saints to respond to the invitation of the Lord to "COME," while the great chorus choir under the inspired leadership of Brother Shufelt melts our hearts with the strains of "I Surrender All," and see the blessed work of the Spirit of God as He operates upon the bleeding hearts and broken souls. Some are finding "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," while others are entering upon "the peace of God that passeth understanding."

Some of the most remarkable conversions took place among the (Continued on page four)

"HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER"

(Continued from page one)

1-3) this command is quoted and re-enforced. It is as much a New Testament command as an Old Testament command. And throughout the New Testament it is clearly taken for granted that the morality involved in this fifth commandment is binding on Christians.

In Matthew 15:3-9 Jesus preached a brief sermon on this text, repeating and elaborating on the duty of honoring fathers and mothers. In Mark 7:6-13 the same story is told in detail. Jesus insisted that honoring father and mother is an essential part of honoring God.

3. God plainly commanded the death penalty for incorrigible disobedience to this command.

In Deuteronomy 21:18-21 is the following clear command that a rebellious son should be stoned on the testimony of his father and mother.

"If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place: And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."

Shocking, isn't it? Every father should be stung wide awake with this clear teaching which shows his responsibility to make his son obey. Every disobedient and disrespectful son and daughter ought to be convicted and alarmed to see how God hates their sin. As murder deserves the death penalty, so does incorrigible disobedience to father and mother deserve the death penalty!

In Exodus, chapter 21, God gives certain rules for organized society to follow. Under the Mosaic law certain sins were to be punished with death. Thus in Exodus 21:15 Jews were commanded, "He that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death." The death penalty just for striking father or mother!

But that is not all. Exodus 21:17 commands, "And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death." The death penalty again, for disrespectful, reviling talk to father and mother! The same Scripture is quoted in the New Testament by the Saviour in Matthew 15:4, "He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." That is in the same verse where "Honour

thy father and mother" is quoted by the dear Saviour.

Thus, every child must be taught that if he would please God he must honor his father and mother. To lift a hand against father or mother deserves death. To curse or revile father or mother deserves death! At the foundation of all Christian duty and decency and morality is this basic command, "Honour thy father and thy mother."

4. The promise is "that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

I do not wonder that the Holy Spirit in the New Testament calls attention to this wonderful promise, and remarks that the fifth commandment is the first one with a promise. See how much is involved in this promise.

First, it seems to promise a long life to the individual. Obedience to father and mother would involve temperate living, the restraint and character and self-control that would make for good health and a long life.

Second, such basic and fundamental morality and righteousness would naturally bring upon one the blessing of God and His protection against harm. God will see that righteousness is rewarded.

Third, "that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Thus one's safe enjoyment of property and possessions is involved in honoring fathers and mothers.

Fourth, and principally, the nation Israel itself was promised long continued protection and prosperity in the land of Canaan, if the nation would observe this command to honor parents. Honoring father and mother means respect for law and order, a good home government. But where government in the home succeeds, then government of the nation is revered and obeyed. And where God's blessing is on the individual home, it will be upon the nation. It is a well known fact of history that when the home decays, the government and national integrity decay likewise. But when a nation teaches its children to revere father and mother, to obey them, that nation is blessed. Consider China. It has not been a Christian nation in the past. There have been many abuses, many sins and immoralities among the Chinese. But the one outstanding virtue of the Chinese is reverence and obedience for parents. Sometimes Chinese have made a fault of this virtue, have even worshipped the spirits of their ancestors. But certainly God is pleased that Chinese people honor fathers and mothers. So for these 5,000 years He has kept their country. There have been invasions. There have been wars. But China has remained, on the whole, blessed of God in the land that He gave them centuries ago.

Let us seek to earn for ourselves and covet for our children the wonderful promise that goes with this fifth commandment, "that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

II. How To Honor Father And Mother Scripturally

The Bible is the most practical book in the world, and so we are not left to guess and wonder about how God means for sons and daughters to honor their parents. Let us see in the Scripture, then, how God wants us to honor fathers and mothers.

1. Honoring parents involves respect for their persons.

Every son or daughter from babyhood should have a genuine reverence and respect for the person of his father and of his mother.

To smite father or mother involved the death penalty (Ex. 21:15).

To curse father or mother meant also the death penalty under Mosaic law (Ex. 21:17; Lev. 20:9; Matt. 15:4).

Even a little baby should be taught never to raise a hand against father or mother. Even in play a child should not be allowed to strike father or mother, but should have a holy reverence for the person of his parent.

And no son or daughter, from babyhood until old age, should ever revile or curse father or mother. A godly respect and reverence is required if one obeys this command, "Honour thy father and thy mother."

In Leviticus 18:7 the Scripture says, "The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness."

Parents should keep themselves properly clothed in the presence of their children. The proper respect and reverence which is commanded of a son or a daughter for his or her parents requires that one is not to uncover the nakedness of his father or mother.

Remember the tragic case of Ham, the son of Noah, who had a curse brought upon his children because he himself had disobeyed his father, Noah, in looking upon Noah when he was unclothed. The story is given in Genesis 9:20-25.

"And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."

It seems remarkable that God thought less of Noah's being drunk than He did of the sin of Ham in observing his father's nakedness! Some have thought that Noah did not know that the wine was fermented. And that is possible. At any rate, a terrible curse was put upon Ham and his children because he had been an undutiful son, lacking in reverence and respect for his father's person. But Shem and Japheth were blessed because, without looking, they covered their father, Noah.

A devoted Christian father sometime ago told me that he was troubled because modern psychologists and teachers on sex matters suggest that fathers and mothers go unclothed before their children, hoping thereby to avoid any particular consciousness on sex matters. He was anxious to do what was proper and right, but felt that decent modesty which would keep every normal man from exposing himself before his little children. I soon showed him from the Scripture that such native modesty is God-given and that it would be sinful and wrong to break down the natural restraint and reverence which children should have for their parents.

If one visited the White House to see the president, any sense of decency would keep him from boldly striding into the presence of the president in his bath. Real respect and reverence of children toward their parents, as their

superiors in age, in wisdom, and particularly in position, makes it wrong for children to be familiar or disrespectful toward the persons of their parents.

In this connection let me say that the modern fashion of encouraging children to call their father and mother by their first names seems to me not only silly but wicked and irreverent. The boy who calls his dad "Bill" or "Joe" certainly does not have the reverence and respect which is properly represented by the Scriptures mentioned above. Well reared young people would certainly not call their high school teacher, the mayor of their city, their Congressman, or their president by his first name. For exactly the same reason they ought not to call their father or their mother by their first names. For sons and daughters to speak disrespectfully to their fathers or mothers, or about them, is a grave sin. One who honors his father and his mother must hold for them a reverential respect.

2. Honoring father and mother involves strict obedience.

That is the very definite New Testament teaching. Read again Ephesians 6:1-3.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Honoring parents means to obey them.

Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Compare Ephesians 6:1 with Colossians 3:20. One says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord." The other says, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

I have known people who tried to use the command, "Obey your parents in the Lord," as an excuse for not obeying parents who were not good Christians. Or sometimes rebellious sons and daughters have perverted this Scripture to make it an excuse for not obeying parents when they claimed to know better what would please the Lord than parents did. Any such interpretation is a misinterpretation, as one can easily see by comparing it with Colossians 3:20. Children are to obey their parents "in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

In other words, there is no way for a minor child to be a good Christian without being a good obedient child to his or her father and mother. Duty to God involves duty to father and mother. A child who is a rebel against his father or mother is a rebel against God.

It is true that sometimes a father may be wrong or a mother may be wrong. It is true that sometimes a father might command a child to do wrong, or a mother might command a child to do wrong. But very rarely would the child be a better judge about what is right or wrong than the father or mother. God simply does not leave it to the child to pass judgment on his father's or mother's command and decide what would be proper to obey and what would be proper to disobey. The plain Bible command is "Children, obey your parents in all things."

A citizen had as well say that he would obey certain laws and that other laws of the land he felt led of the Holy Spirit to break. No, it ought to be a foregone conclusion that Christian children obey their parents, that Christian pupils obey their teachers, that Christian citizens obey the laws of the land. When Peter said to the Jewish leaders, "We ought to obey God rather than man," he was not disobeying any law of the Roman governorship,

or any of the Mosaic laws of which the Jewish rulers were guardians.

I am simply saying that children ought to obey their parents, and this fundamental meaning of this fifth commandment of the ten ought to be taken to heart as part of the basic morality commanded in the Bible. Every preacher and Bible teacher, every parent, should stress obedience to parents as a fundamental of Christian living.

Suppose a child in some matters knows better than his father or mother; does that justify the child in refusing obedience where God has commanded it? Certainly not! I am sure that I have a better education, that I am a better Christian and a better citizen than many a traffic cop, but that gives me no right to disobey his legal authority. Any son or daughter who is a Christian can best show his or her Christianity to an unsaved father or mother by the most devout and loving obedience. And you may be sure that the more genuine and sincere the obedience from the heart that a child will render to his parent, the more the parent will be convinced of the Christianity of the child. "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

3. Honoring parents involves financial support and provision of children for fathers and mothers.

Does the obligation of children to honor their parents cease when the children are grown and perhaps married and gone from the parent's home? No, indeed! The devotion and respect due to parents must continue until death. Naturally, when children are grown and make their own support and perhaps have families of their own, the father and mother will not expect to dictate every detail of the lives of their grown children. But every child has a debt that he can never pay. Every grown son and daughter must feel that all the reverence and devotion and loyal submission to father and mother is little enough to pay for all the parents have done.

I well remember that when I was a grown man with a family of my own, I listened with profoundest respect to any opinion of my father. And though he did not try to maintain his authority over me, there was an unspoken authority, nevertheless. Had he felt it right to strictly command me on some matter, I hardly see how I could have disobeyed him. Certainly I would not have disobeyed him willingly, even then.

But the honor that mature men and women pay to their parents should often be expressed in financial support and provision. This was taught by the Saviour Himself, expounding this very commandment.

Read Mark 7:6-13:

"He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep

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your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother, and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

The Jewish leaders had a rule of "Corban." If a man should say to his father or mother, "It is Corban," that is, to say that he was dedicating whatever he owned to his father or mother as a gift to God or to the religious leaders, then these leaders did not allow him to do anything in the way of financial support for his father or mother. Here religious duty was made a substitute for the financial care and support which is due a father and mother from their children. And Jesus said that these religious leaders had thus dishonored God, had made the Word of God of none effect by their tradition. And the Scripture that Jesus quoted to them was this same fifth commandment, "Honour thy father and thy mother."

According to our Lord Jesus Christ, sons and daughters who honor their fathers and mothers support them in old age, and provide for them as necessary. Jesus said that this is involved in the commandment, "Honour thy father and thy mother."

Some Christian men and women are proud of the money they give to their church or to missions or to some phase of the Lord's work. They ought to know that Jesus said they are making the Word of God of none effect by their tradition if they do not first see that father and mother are provided for. God does not want the offerings of a son whose father and mother are in want.

Certainly I believe in tithing, and I believe that any man and women who does right on this matter can afford to tithe, also. But Christian giving ought never to be made an excuse for not providing for father and mother.

This discussion by the Saviour, showing that those who do not support father and mother disobey the fifth commandment is also given in Matthew 15:3-9.

Again, in I Timothy 5:3,4 this teaching is given, that children should honor their parents by providing for them.

"Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

How can children honor their widowed mothers? By supporting them! And children who want to show piety should "learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God." Real Christianity requires children to support their widowed mother or even their widowed aunt.

It is a remarkable fact, not generally recognized, that I Timothy 5:8, in the same chapter, speaks of the support due a widowed mother. The Scripture says,

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." This Scripture does not speak of a man's support for wife and children, but the support of parents, particularly of a widowed mother or aunt. Any man who does not see that the widows of his family connection are provided for, and specially for his own widowed mother, has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

How wicked, then, for Christian families to let mother or father go on relief rolls! Why should the government need to support the parents of Christian young people? Why should the church ever have to care for aged Christians who have reared children? Any man who wants the Townsend Plan to support his father and mother is, in that matter, worse than an infidel and has denied the faith, says I Timothy 5:8. God's plan is not old age pensions, nor relief, nor a dole from the church, for aged Christians. God's plan is that sons and daughters should provide for their parents. That is part of what it means to "Honour thy father and thy mother."

Thus, we see that to keep the fifth commandment, sons and daughters who honor their father and mother must hold their persons in fervent respect, must obey them, must provide for them as necessary.

III. A Proper Honoring of Parents Is The Foundation Of All Successful Human Society

So much of human duty and morality is involved in honoring parents in the Bible sense that there can be no successful and morally healthful society and civilization except in proportion as this command is obeyed. Those who honestly honor their fathers and mothers according to the Scriptural command and its meaning will have a proper reverence and devotion to God, will promote righteousness in obedience to law and government, will reverence holy things and pass on the moral inheritance from one generation to the next.

Let us consider prayerfully how essential is honoring of parents as a foundation of moral and righteous human society.

1. Honoring parents naturally results in reverence for God.

The husband and wife are "heirs together of the grace of life," says the Word of God (I Peter 3:7). Father and mother cooperate with Almighty God as joint creators of the little life that comes from their holy marriage. A human father is the nearest thing on earth to God that a little child can know. There is something essentially godlike in fatherhood and motherhood. The child who does not reverence his own father and mother will not reverence the Creator. One who has a proper reverence and godly respect for his parents will naturally respect the Creator. A man's inherent duty toward his parents is very much like his duty toward God. In fact, we are taught to call God, "Our Father which art in heaven." It is intended that a human father should be the image and reminder of the Heavenly Father of a Christian.

There are some people who will not like the teaching of this article

that children are to obey parents. There are some people who strenuously object to parent's whipping children. And who are these objectors? Why, they are the same people who do not believe the Bible, do not surrender and bow to the authority of Almighty God. Those who object to God's authority also object to the authority of father and mother.

Every sensible person knows that those who rebel against father and mother, are also rebels against God. No wonder the Nazis in Germany taught children to spy upon their parents and report them to the Gestapo for any criticism of Hitler and his murderous policy! No wonder that in Russia, ruled by atheistic communists, parents were forbidden to teach their own children about God. Rebellion of children against parents goes with rebellion against God. That is the history of the whole human race.

In II Timothy 3:1-7 is a terrible catalog of the sins of men in the last days. Verses 2 to 4 say, "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

And right in the middle of this catalog we learn that some will be "blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy." Blasphemy and disobedience to parents go together. Disobedience to parents and unholiness go together. Disobedience to parents is naturally a sin of the incontinent, the fierce, the despisers of them that are good, of traitors, of those who do not love God! The Scripture says that disobedience to parents is a part and parcel of these terrible sins of the last days. So those who do not honor parents do not honor God.

We can have a healthy and moral society only as we inculcate obedience and honor to parents.

2. Honoring Parents promotes the right attitude toward law and government.

Every experienced and observant school teacher knows that disobedience to parents in the home results in disobedience to the teacher and to the rules of the school. Every juvenile court judge well knows that the homes where there is no honor for parents, and no obedience on the part of children, are the homes that turn out young criminals and hoodlums. Everybody knows that the report of Chief Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau Of Investigation, saying that the breakdown in parental authority has resulted in a great increase in crime on the part of young people, is true. Sensible people should know that if children do not obey their parents they will not obey other people later, will not obey the authority of the government. We cannot expect a nation of good citizens to grow up from sons and daughters who do not honor their parents. If we expect our Government to stand and legal human authority to be supported in a patriotic country, then we must

sponsor and inculcate this fundamental virtue of obedience and honor to parents.

3. Honor to parents necessarily involves the right attitude of reverence toward sex and marriage.

Studies by psychologists have revealed that children who grow up in well managed homes, who grow up in obedience to parents, are much less likely to have their own homes broken later by divorce. The closest that any man will ever come to the marriage problem, before he himself is married, will be as he observes the marriage of his father and mother. If, in his own home, a boy has been taught to observe the deepest reverence for the womanhood of his own mother, to regard her person sacredly, to respect her wishes and obey her commands, and feels an obligation to support her financially, he will naturally be a desirable husband with a proper reverence toward all good womanhood.

From long experience in dealing with troubled human hearts, with sinful human lives and entangled human relationships, I can say that the man who reveres his father and his mother is much more likely to have a normal attitude toward matters of sex and marriage. The man who reveres his mother will be more likely to reverence his sister. One who reveres his mother and sisters will certainly be more likely to reverence other women. The godly influence of a mother who has been greatly honored and strictly obeyed by her son has been illustrated many, many times within my own experience.

A great preacher whom I know well and love devotedly told in my hearing this story: He lived at home on a southern farm and traveled some distance to high school, working his way. But when the high school work was done there came the time for him to leave the farm and go off to college. The family had gathered to tell him good-bye before his father should take Joe to the railroad station. His mother called him to one side and said something like this: "Joe, we have looked after you and counseled you and prayed for you. Now you are a man, and you are going off to college. You will have to be a man of your own, and you will have to resist temptation often without our help. But I want you to remember, Joe, that every night at nine o'clock in our family worship we will be praying for you. I want you to keep clean and straight, Joe, and I believe you will."

Joe went to college, worked hard and clean and made good. He made the football team. On Thanksgiving Day of his fourth year in college in the homecoming game he was the halfback who carried the ball over the goal-line for the winning touchdown and was carried off the field on the shoulders of his team-mates.

That night the coach said to the boys on the team, "You have worked hard and kept training and been in bed every night by ten o'clock. Tonight the rules are off. Have a good time."

When the big dinner was over and other boys dressed for a late evening in the city, they told how they expected to visit the red-light

district and urged Joe to go along. When he first refused they said he was a sissy, tied to his mother's apron strings. At last Joe said, "All right, I will go."

On the street together the boys laughed and talked until suddenly the clock in a tower began to strike, one! two! three! The gong sounded on until finally it ended, eight! nine! Then the sound died away on the air. It was nine o'clock! And Joe turned to his comrades and said, "I don't care, boys. I am not going. You can call me anything you want to, but I'm not going!" For Joe said he remembered his mother at nine o'clock was at home praying for him. The reverence and respect he had for his mother, as well as his own Christian convictions, made it impossible for him to go on in the vile sin that was contemplated. And Joe was able to

(Continued on page eight)

PASTOR REJOICES OVER REVIVAL LED BY DR. WELLS

The associate editor of *The Sword of the Lord*, Dr. Robert J. Wells, held evangelistic services in the Meridian Avenue Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas. The editor was pleased to have the following letter from the pastor, Rev. R. L. Woods.

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214 Wesley

Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brethren:

Some few months ago we planned a revival meeting, but were not sure where to obtain the services of a godly, Spirit-filled evangelist. About that time some good soul sent me *The Sword of the Lord*, and in reading its pages we became acquainted with the work of the evangelist, Dr. Robert J. Wells.

We were fortunate in securing Dr. Wells for a meeting which we have just closed with splendid results. Many came for baptism, reconsecration, by letter and experience. Though hampered by very rainy weather, we had an enthusiastic and Spirit-filled meeting. Closing services, Sunday, May 6, filled the building to capacity. The largest attendance during my pastorate was recorded in the Church School hour, with exception of Easter Sundays.

Any church or group of churches who wish a real Bible revival can do no better than to seek the services of Dr. Robert J. Wells, whom I found to be very gracious, pleasant to work with, on fire for the Lord, with a true and real passion for souls.

Yours in His services,

(Signed) R. L. Woods
Pastor

rlw.w

Dr. Wells may be addressed by interested pastors at 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

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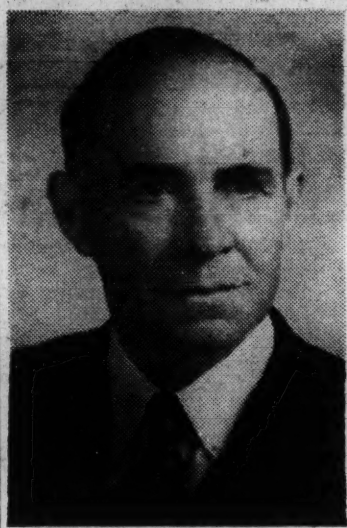
Nothing Else Like It In America!

by Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor

One of the most widely used evangelists in America today is Dr. Joe Henry Hankins. Formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, where in five years he received 3,500 members, of which 2,500 were on profession of faith, he brings to the evangelistic field a wealth of experience gained in the pastorate.

Fruitful Ministry

Since his entrance into the evangelistic field about three years ago, Dr. Hankins has preached in almost every section of the country, in many different types of churches but always with the same blessedly fruitful results. Almost a year ago Dr. Hankins was the evangelist in a big union meeting in Bellingham, Washington, during which there were 312 actual conversions and many rededications. Local pastors said it was the "greatest spiritual awak-



DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

ening in a quarter of a century" and Dr. R. Francis Hall, pastor of the Broadway United Presbyterian Church, there said, "The committee was led to engage the High School auditorium with a seating capacity of 1800 and it proved to be none too large. The audience increased in numbers and in interest and hundreds accepted Christ as their Savior and Christian people caught a new vision."

A Tender, Passionate Preacher

Dr. Hankins is a preacher of unusual fervor and passion. Quoting again from Dr. Hall, "God has specially endowed Dr. Hankins for just such a city wide-movement. His method and manifest spiritual power would remind one of D. L. Moody. He has the keen, scholarly, analytical mind of an R. A. Torrey and the love and compassion for souls of a Wilbur Chapman."

Great Union Revival in Pontiac, Michigan

Dr. Hankins closed the greatest campaign of his entire ministry to date just a few weeks ago. It was the big Union Revival Meeting held in Pontiac, Michigan in which some thirty churches co-operated. The tabernacle in which the meetings were held, conservatively estimated to seat 2,000 people, was nearly filled every night and on many nights people had to stand. There were 822 known professions of faith in Christ during this campaign and Pontiac enjoyed one of the greatest revivals in its history. Dr. H. H. Savage, pastor of the First Baptist Church there said: "It was conclusive evidence to all 'doubting Thomases' that the day of revivals is not passed, and that the old-fashioned gospel is still 'the power of God.'"

Will Be A Featured Speaker

This great soul-winner will be speaking several times throughout the Conference and will participate in the various discussion groups. He will be available for counsel and will be on the grounds for the entire week. He is one of the greatest evangelists of our day and it will be a treat to enjoy his fellowship and to benefit by his ministry.

Other Outstanding Preachers and Singers Will Appear on Program

Besides Dr. Hankins, there will be a number of other outstanding evangelists and Christian leaders, some pastor-evangelists and several distinguished Gospel singers who will appear on the program. Preachers will include, Dr. Hyman Appelman, Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., Dr. Sam Morris, Dr. B. R. Lakin, Rev. G. P. Comer, Rev. Jesse M. Hendley, Rev. Rolfe Barnard, and the Editors of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.—Singers include Rev. J. Stratton Shufelt, Rev. and Mrs. E. T. Tindley, Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Spencer, Rev. A. W. McKee.

Many Are Coming

We are receiving reports almost every day from those who are planning to attend this great conference. Evangelist Chas. F. Weigle widely known composer of the beautiful hymn "No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus" has made his reservation, and we have just received a letter from Evangelist Mordecai F. Ham and one from Evangelist George Stephens, two widely known and greatly blessed soul-winners saying that they too, plan to attend. They are coming from far and near. Some evangelists, many pastors, song leaders, lay-workers and Christian leaders from all over America are making their plans to attend.

Send Your Reservations In Immediately!

In order to be sure to have an accommodation for the Conference and thus be assured the privileges and blessings of those seven great

REVIVAL ECHOES...

(Continued from page one)

aged. The writer has never witnessed so many gray-haired, tottering men and women come forward as in this meeting.

One of the first was a grandmother past seventy under great conviction. She was unable to express her desires well except in the German tongue, so a worker was found who could converse with her freely, and the Lord brought peace to her soul.

An elderly man came weeping and told of having been saved from Catholicism in Hungary many years ago. But he had permitted a family grievance to rob him of fellowship with the Lord over an extended period of time. Restoration was enjoyed that night and our happy brother was seen in nearly every service in the weeks following.

A most remarkable incident took place one night as an elderly woman came in tears and revealed that she had been an active church worker for many years but had never experienced the new birth. To be sure, she went away rejoicing in salvation and determined to help those whom she had ignorantly misled so many years.

The words of the Lord Jesus, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" were driven home to many patient's hearts at the two great meetings held for the boys and girls. Dr. Rice held a great throng of children spell-bound as he told the gospel story in all of its simplicity. The invitation was carefully given and nearly three hundred children found the Saviour in these great Saturday afternoon services.

One little fellow, the son of a prominent pastor, was bathed in tears and could hardly wait until he could get to a telephone to tell his mother that he would never be a bad boy again since he was now saved.

The answer to that great question: "What must I do to be saved?" is still the same, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." What a joy to see entire families saved!!!

One night we were drawn to a circle of inquiring souls who had gathered about a pastor. Every face showed great concern. We days, we urge you to send in your reservation without delay.

For complete information and reservations, write Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Conference Director, 214 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

were looking upon a scene that would make angels weep for joy. An entire family,—father, mother, three daughters, and a nephew and niece were finding the peace of God.

What could be more touching than to see a husky young man leading a weeping woman to the Lord, and then we learned that God had answered his prayers by saving his mother.

Husbands and wives on the verge of separation were gloriously saved and reconciled. Such scenes were witnessed again and again. Revival will grip the most cynical saints in the presence of such manifestations of the grace of God.

A sailor spending a furlough with a friend in the city was on the eve of separation from his wife who had been left behind in an Eastern city. He was brought under great conviction. Every effort to console this stalwart man seemed to be in vain, but finally he yielded to the Lord, and the first desire of his new-born soul was to rush from the auditorium in preparation for a hurried trip to the side of an offended wife and to beg for reconciliation. What a demonstration of the power of God!!

At a great youth rally on Saturday night with nearly seventy penitent hearts crowding the inquiry room, a young Christian woman came with her sailor sweetheart. The intense longing of the heart to see her beloved saved was greatly in evidence. The man seemed hard to move. Then the Spirit spoke and before another word could be spoken, he was upon his knees sobbing with a broken and contrite heart. Peace came! This bronzed sailor rose from his knees. Leaving a full pack of cigarettes lying there, he said, "I shall not need these any longer."

After a soul-stirring message on "The Second Coming of Christ," a Jewish couple rose from their seats and went boldly to the place that now seemed like "holy ground" to firmly confess their faith in Christ. A Hebrew Christian by their side rejoiced and prepared to offer assistance to two of our Lord's kinsmen who had found Him of whom the prophets had written.

Our God is no respecter of persons. All hearts were gladdened as a fearful Japanese girl was led to Christ. Certainly the truth, "accepted in the Beloved," was never more precious to any soul than this one of a now despised race.

The writer was urged to speak

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with two Mexicans at the close of a convincing message on "The Priest and the Rent Vail." We found them in a state of conviction having been able to grasp enough truth to convince them of sin. We found ourselves in a quandary, since they could speak little English and we had forgotten nearly all the Spanish that we had studied in High School many years ago. But God wanted them to receive the witness, and the Lord recalled to our mind sufficient Spanish to learn that they wanted to be saved, and one of them that night confessed his love for Jesus Christ.

Many Catholics of both the Roman and Greek churches were in attendance at the services throughout the four weeks. The Lord has given great tactfulness to Dr. Rice to so preach the gospel as to win these souls from the darkness of Romanism. Therefore many of these were brought to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pastors were made glad to see a number of them in

their church services on the following Sunday mornings.

We shall never forget the stirring scene witnessed as a United States Marine sergeant, just back from the horrors of the Pacific War, responded to the invitation after hearing a message on Daniel. God had prepared his heart and peace with God was a most welcome blessing to this hardened but broken marine. Tears do not come easily to such as these, but the Lord was in this experience, and unashamed they flowed. A friend came to the inquiry room and found an old pal in the ecstasy that grips a Heaven-found soul, and falling into each others' arms, two big men wept for joy.

Only the records of Heaven contain the full story of those marvellous nights, but we shall have all eternity to hear of the wonders of His grace that were displayed in four weeks of Heaven-sent revival in Cleveland when nearly eight hundred souls found rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

LAST LAUGH

(Continued from page one)

promise of God. They would laugh derisively and say, "Poor old Sarah and Abraham are in their dotage, and they are counting on something that will never be." But after all, "he who laughs last, laughs best." Sarah had the last laugh when God came in and fulfilled His promise.

The Laughter of Gladness

And then I think of another striking incident that has a bearing on a great deal that is taking place in the world at the present time. You remember how God's earthly people, Israel, were carried away by the Chaldeans into Babylon and those who took them captive never expected that they would be free again. But God had promised that some day He was going to bring His people back to His own land, and back to Himself. You remember in one of the Psalms, Israel exclaimed, "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing." I am sure many a time as they talked of the national home, as they spoke of getting back to the land of promise, as they spoke of the rebuilding of Jehovah's temple and their restoration to Himself, their enemies must have laughed scornfully, and said, "That will never be: you will never again be permitted to go back to Palestine. You will never again be a free people." But once more, "He who laughs last, laughs best." And the day came when they could look upon the enemy and say, "The Lord turned again our captivity." And they laughed for sheer joy of heart.

Just shortly before the World War began, I heard of a number of Jewish citizens of Berlin who were summoned before Adolf Hitler, who announced to them what he intended to do to the Jewish people. He painted a very lurid picture of what he expected to accomplish. He intimated that through his instrumentality the day would come when the Jews would be practically blotted out from the nations of the world.

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One of the old, toothless Rabbis who was there in the little group listening, burst into uncontrollable laughter to the great indignation of the Fuehrer who turned and said:

"What do you mean, laughing like that in my presence?"

"Oh, Sire, I was not laughing at you, but I was thinking of Pharaoh, and I was thinking of the Amalekites, and I was thinking of Haman, and I was thinking of the Romans, of Titus and Vespasian. I was thinking of these tyrants in the years gone by who made the same threats you have made and declared they would blot out the name of Israel from under Heaven. But they are all dead and Israel lives and will live because the eternal God has given His word that this people shall never be destroyed." Yes, the old Rabbi's laughter was well founded because he believed the testimony of the living God.

The Laughter of Triumph

There is the laughter of gladness, and then there is the laughter of triumph over one's enemies. In the book of Psalms, Psalm 52:6, we read of Israel that after having been exposed to great suffering and sorrow, God gave them promise of deliverance. And we are told in verses 5 and 6, (speaking to the Gentiles who were dealing with them in judgment,) "God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him," as they say, "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness." We are told, "The triumphing of the wicked is short" (Job 20:5). This is the day when the wicked seem to be triumphant. In this day righteousness has to suffer. And if a man is going to be true to God, if faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ, he is exposed to the contempt of the world, which looks upon God's people as fools and laughs at their supposed folly in seeking a city beyond the skies. One is reminded of John Bunyan's striking picture in "Pilgrim's Progress" of old Atheist following the pilgrims along the way, jeering at them, laughing, scoffing at them and pointing them out as men who actually believed in a city up in the sky. But the day came when Atheist was destroyed and Pilgrim and his companion made their way across the river into the Celestial City. And I think as they stood on yonder shore and looked back

on all the way they had come, they would feel like laughing, lifting up their hearts in a song of triumph. Their mouths would be filled with laughter.

I remember when I was a boy it used to trouble me sometimes because the lads I had to mingle with in school and elsewhere, most of them came from Godless homes. It always seemed a great thing to them to make fun of one who was interested in the things of God. Sometimes when I would be on my way to Sunday School on the Lord's day and I would meet some of these lads and they would see the Bible in my hands, it used to go home to my very heart as they laughed and sneered. They were out having a good time, and I was a poor little pious fool who had to go to Sunday School. And I felt it. I remember going home and talking to Mother about it. I had a very sensible mother. She looked at me and said, "Harry, remember this: they may laugh you into Hell, but they will never laugh you out of it."

Those words gripped me from that time on. It didn't make any difference no matter how they laughed, I felt I had something in knowing Christ that they knew nothing of. And my own heart was filled with laughter. Oh, if men could only put first things first, if they would only appreciate the value of an immortal soul, nobody would laugh, nobody would sneer, when people were concerned about getting right with God.

Long years ago there was conflict between two different peoples in the land of India, that land where many different nations have found their home. And sometimes they have been in the past centuries at enmity one with another. In this instance, two different nations were fighting together. One of them triumphed and captured quite a few leaders of the opposite side, among them a young prince, the son of their great enemy. In order to humiliate this prince as they marched into this city in triumph, the Rajah leading, and a great host of captives coming along behind, the Rajah said to the prince, "You shall go barefooted through the city and let all the people see you are a captive." The young prince looked up haughtily and indignantly and said, "Oh, Sire, but what kind of faces will the people make if I do that?" The Rajah looked angrily at the prince and said, "That isn't all. As you march through the city you shall carry in your hands a bowl of milk and if you so much as spill one drop, my guards will be watching you on either side and will instantly put you to death." Pale and nervous, the young prince took the bowl filled with milk, the drums struck up, and the procession started. On through the streets of the city they went, and you can imagine how that young prince felt. He realized one false step, one drop of milk spilled, and those burly soldiers on either side would be prepared to strike him down. But he made the entire journey safely. And when he came to the end and they were brought up for review before the Rajah, with a kind of wry smile he said, "Well, Sir Prince, what kind of faces did the people make?" The prince looked up and said, "Oh, Sire, I saw no one's face. I only saw my own life which I carried in my hands."

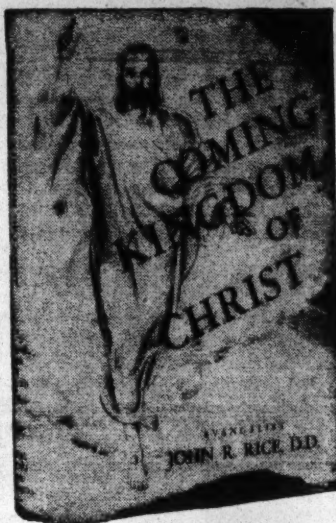
Oh, I tell you, if men and women could only realize that God has given them time here on earth to prepare for eternity and that nothing can make up for the loss of the soul, they would never be perturbed or upset or distressed because God lets unsaved men and women laugh at their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He has said, "Blessed are ye that weep now; for ye shall laugh." All the sadness, all the sorrow the Christian will ever know, he has in this world.

Some people wonder why God's people are permitted to suffer at all. But Scripture tells us that "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (I Peter 1:7). He will not permit His people to endure any sorrow or suffering that will not work out for their eternal blessing. All the sorrow they will ever experience, all the grief their hearts will ever be subject to,

they know in their short life here on earth, and then when at last they are at home with Himself in yonder glory and they look back all the way they have come, they will understand then as they cannot now, the why of all God's ways with them. Oh, then what joyful laughter there will be when we realize we are safe home with Christ and that forever.

Foolish Laughter

But as for the poor worldling, all the joy he will ever know is
(Continued on page six)



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"... give attendance to reading." 1 Tim. 4:13.

LAST LAUGH...

(Continued from page five)

what he gets here. And the Lord Jesus says of him, "Woe unto you that laugh now, for ye shall mourn and weep." Often it seems as though God's children suffer far more than many unconverted people. But God has permitted men of the world to go their own way in many instances. All the pleasure they will ever know, they get in this life.

I heard of a great big, burly prize fighter who got converted. He was married to a perfect termagant of a wife. She was a little bit of a thing, but, was so angry that he became a Christian that she tormented him day and night. And one time when he came in, she was so infuriated because he had come from a meeting when she had wanted him to go out with her to some ungodly place of amusement, that she lit into him. She went at him so hard he tripped and fell, big, burly fellow that he was. There he lay upon the floor. This evil-tempered little personality pounded him with a broomstick. Just that moment the door opened, and a friend said, "Joe, I am surprised that you would let your wife pound you like that." Joe got up, rubbing himself rather ruefully, and exclaimed, "Oh well, the poor little thing, it is all the Heaven she is ever going to get, if she doesn't get converted, so I want her to have a good time while she can." All the Heaven a worldling will ever have is what he gets down here. All the pleasure he will ever know, all the joy he will ever have, is what he gets in this world.

I remember years ago I was spending a Saturday night with a few friends in the saloons and dives and dance halls and low vaudeville theatres in Portland, Oregon, from 8 o'clock to 2 in the morning. We went from one place to another with arms full of gospel booklets, giving them out to all who would accept them. At one place, the vaudeville show was going on, and men were seated at tables. All through the audience gaudily-dressed girls were going about, urging them to buy whiskey and beer, etc. The liquor was flowing freely. As we went around, my friend and I went from one to another, giving out our gospel tracts. Suddenly one of the fellows shouted out, "Here is a parson among us. Let's make him preach to us." Before he could change his mind, I jumped up on the table, thanked him for his invitation, and started. Even all the ballet girls stopped dancing, the music stopped, and I began to preach to them. I remember yet something of what I said:

"My friends, you are here tonight, I suppose, because you love music and song and bright lights and pleasure. I want to tell you this, that I too love all these things. But men, you are in the wrong place looking for them. All the pleasure, all the joy, all the gladness, all the fun, all the music, all the bright lights that you will ever know you get while you are here in this world if you do not come to Christ. But if you trust Him, if you receive Him as your Saviour, then you will have music, you will have bright lights, you

will dwell in His own presence, you will have joy and gladness, you will have a new song for all eternity."

And I was just warming up to it when the bartender shouted out, "Pull that man down or we won't sell any more whiskey here tonight!" So two big fellows came and pulled me down from the table. But I had preached my sermon anyway.

Oh, how true! The world has pleasure now, and then one moment after death and it is all over. It has its laughter now, but there will be nothing but tears and sorrow and weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth for all eternity. Do you know who said that? It wasn't some wild-eyed, long haired evangelist who first gave utterance to those words. They were uttered by the most tender, most gracious, most loving Man that ever trod this earth, the Lord Jesus Christ. It was He who spoke of an eternal doom for those who reject the gospel. It was He who said, "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abideth on him." It was He who said of the wicked, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment." It was He who said, "If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." It was He who said, "Their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." It was Jesus who used the words of this part of my text, "Woe unto you that laugh now, for ye shall mourn and weep."

The Laughter of Derision

But then I think of another sense in which laughter is presented in the Scripture, there is the laughter of derision. When one knows that something is to take place and others refuse to believe it, we frequently express ourselves by laughter. You know in the first chapter of the book of Proverbs you have wisdom laughing, and that is the laughter of derision. I will never forget what these words meant to me years ago when I was a lad fourteen years of age. It was these verses that brought conviction to my heart and led me to turn to Christ. Listen to them: "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord."

That is the laughter of derision. Wisdom is personified here, and

wisdom personified is, after all, none other than our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, for He is the wisdom of God. Justin Martyn, one of the early Christians, well said, "Christ is the wisdom of God and therefore in every age whoever honestly sought after wisdom was unconsciously seeking after Christ." All wisdom is found in Him and He stands at the crossroads, as it were, to turn men back from the broad way that leads to destruction and to point them to the narrow way that leads to eternal life. And He pleads with men to hear the voice of wisdom, to repent of their sins while there is time and opportunity, to turn to God while He waits to be gracious. But He says, as it were, 'If you won't hear, if you won't come, if you persist in taking your own careless, godless way, then some day, when it is too late, some day when you have passed redemption point, some day when you wake up in a lost eternity, I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh.' It is the derision of outraged wisdom because men have spurned its entreaties.

Oh, dear, friend, if you are here tonight out of Christ, the voice of wisdom says you had better turn and come to Jesus, you had better now repent of your sin, take your place before God as a lost sinner and trust the sinner's Saviour. But if you turn away,

"If you still His call refuse And all His wondrous love abuse, 'Too late, too late!' will be the cry When Jesus of Nazareth has passed by."

And then wisdom will laugh at your calamity and mock when your fear cometh. Wisdom will have the last laugh. "The laughter of fools is like the crackling of thorns under a pot," we are told. That is the laughter of those who reject God's message, and it dies away and leaves nothing but ashes. But those who know Christ will have joy and gladness for eternity.

God Will Have the Last Laugh

And then there is one other passage that speaks of laughter and derision, two, in fact, that I want to read and I will just link them together. I think they are of great importance in these days. I refer first of all to the second Psalm. You know in that Psalm we have only twelve verses and there are four different voices in those twelve verses. In the first three verses you hear the voice of the world. What does the world say, the world that hates God, the world that spurns His Christ? Listen: "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed." This is what some of them are doing today, challenging Him to His face, and they say—this is the voice of the godless world: "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." And so they laugh in the very face of God. But again I repeat, "He that laughs last laughs best." And so in the next three verses we have the voice of God the Father speaking. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." He looks down upon puny, wicked men lifting their little fists against Him, and He laughs when He thinks of the judgment that is yet going to fall upon them preparatory to the setting up of His own glorious kingdom: "Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure." What does He say, what does the Father's voice say? "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."

Then in the next three verses you have the voice of the Son.

Listen to it: "I will declare the decree: Jehovah hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." And then in the last three verses you get the voice of the Holy Spirit. Listen to His voice: "Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth: Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Yes, the nations are lining up against God. They laugh defiantly in His very face today. But God will have the last laugh. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." God is going to carry out His plan in spite of all the efforts of man to the contrary. He will have the last laugh. Turn to Him now and you may know you will be with Him then.

Decide for Christ Today

Dear reader, you have read the above sermon by dear Dr. Ironside. Surely you do not want God to laugh at your calamity later because you reject Christ now! Jesus said in John 3:18, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he

hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." If you are ready to repent of your sins and give yourself to Christ, trusting Him to save you now, He will give you everlasting life and you will not be condemned. But if you have not trusted Christ to save you, have not definitely committed your soul to Him for forgiveness and peace, you are already condemned!

If you will take Christ as Saviour, do it today. Sign this decision and mail it at once. We will tell Dr. Ironside that he may rejoice with us, and the editor will write you a personal letter of counsel and encouragement. Oh, decide today! Can you honestly sign this statement?

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
The Sword of the Lord
214 W. Wesley St.
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have just read Dr. Ironside's sermon on THE LAST LAUGH. I know that I am a sinner. Today I honestly repent of my sins and turn to Christ for mercy and forgiveness. This very day I accept Him as my Saviour and by His grace I will endeavor to live for Him the remainder of my life.

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

Date _____

With the Evangelists Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By Dr. Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor

A Conference On Evangelism

On Wednesday, April 25th, it was my privilege to attend a sectional Conference on Evangelism, sponsored by the Kansas State Baptist Convention, and conducted in the First Baptist Church of Newton, Kansas.

In spite of the fact that it had been raining for the biggest part of three days and many of the roads were in very bad condition, there was a very fine attendance at the session I was able to attend in the afternoon. I was greatly impressed with the attendance and also with the spirit in which the meeting was conducted. There was great sincerity manifested on the part of all who participated in the program in any way, and a spirit of deep concern for the lost was quite apparent on every hand. The messages were given fervently and were Scriptural throughout, evidencing prayerful, thoughtful preparation. Great emphasis was placed upon the necessity of utter dependence upon the Lord for blessing; upon the need for a Bible-centered ministry; upon a firm proclamation against sin and wickedness in all of its forms and upon the imperative need for a passion for souls and a vision of what it means for men and women to die without Christ and be lost forever in an eternal Hell.

Deep Concern Over Failures

Throughout the session there was a spirit of deep concern over the failures of the past. There was no attempt made to gloss over the weaknesses in their churches and no excuses offered for failure to accomplish what they felt should have been done for Christ in the past year.

I was quite interested and I think you will be in some of the statistics presented for the purpose of revealing the great need of the Baptists in their state. It was reported that there are between 80 and 100 churches in the state that are without pastors at the present time. Some of these

are rural churches, but many of them are churches in fairly large towns, in almost every case presenting a great opportunity for serving the Lord and winning the lost. I was definitely shocked to learn that according to the reports received from the churches, 60% of the churches in the state had not won a soul for Christ during the past year. However, the reason for this was quite clear when we were informed that 61% of the churches in the state had not even attempted to hold a revival meeting during that time.

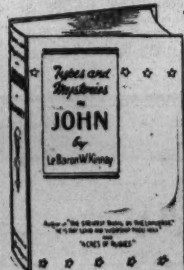
Definite Plans For Real Evangelistic Emphasis

I have cited these facts in order to report that the Baptist ministers of this particular state seem to be awake to the underlying causes for their failures and they are doing something about it. They are conducting Conferences on Evangelism similar to this one, throughout the state as a preliminary to and in preparation for a great program on evangelism in which they are attempting to enlist the cooperation of every church and pastor. Their objective is a revival meeting in every church in the state. They are planning well, praying much and in earnest. They have a real vision of the need, a deep concern for the lost and a great determination to see to it that the remedy is applied. In the session I attended, the emphasis was not placed upon methods, but was without question, distinctively spiritual throughout. May God grant a great victory to this group of faithful Baptist preachers who have a passion for the souls of the multitudes who are lost.

Evangelism Is The Source Of Life

Sixty per cent of the Baptist Churches in the State of Kansas did not win a soul for Christ during the past year, and 61% did not even attempt to hold a revival. What a revelation! When churches quit holding revivals, when the fires of evangelism die out in the

(Continued on page seven)



"TYPES AND MYSTERIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN"

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By the Editor

Forgive the above boasting; there is a reason. It is really true that now for a long period of years *The Sword of the Lord* has more than doubled in circulation in two years! And the growth represents regular paid subscriptions. We do not have big lists of readers with unpaid subscriptions. And the reason we are telling you about the wonderful growth of *The Sword of the Lord*, how it constantly gains in favor with the best Christian people in America, the best preachers of all denominations; how it doubles its circulation or more in every two years—the reason we are telling you this is simply that we want the work to continue prospering, under God's blessing. We tell you how *The Sword of the Lord* is growing, and how popular it is among fundamentally sound Christian people all over America, in order to have your help further.

1. *The Sword of the Lord* actually has almost no competition in the realm of revival weeklies. We do not know of any other Christian magazine or paper in America that has full-length evangelistic sermons by the best soul winners, the preachers who address the greatest congregations in America, such as *The Sword of the Lord* publishes. The messages used in other periodicals are not full-length. Other periodicals use a few good, short articles by leading men, and then fill up with less worthy material. *The Sword of the Lord* is tremendously popular among the more spiritual Christian people all over America simply because it deserves to be.

This is particularly proven by the fact that we continually have reports of people saved through the messages in *The Sword of the Lord*. The record of God's gracious blessing on these messages is not equaled, as far as we know, by that of any other periodical in the world.

2. *The Sword of the Lord* gives unusual value for the money. These eight large pages for only \$1.50 a year, make a tremendous bargain. Fifty-two issues of this paper gives an enormous amount of the very highest grade of Christian reading matter, matter that would cost you many dollars if published in books. And most of the material is so good that it is published, sooner or later, in high grade books with wide circulation. I do not remember that we have ever had one complaint of the material in *The Sword of the Lord* was not worth more than the subscription price. Since the editor receives no salary of any kind from *The Sword of the Lord*, no profit on the investment, we are enabled to send the paper out at this low price.

3. Then we have many thousands of earnest Christian friends who are aware of the tremendous importance of getting *The Sword*

of the Lord into the hands and homes of others. A Florida layman paid for two thousand short-term subscriptions to preachers. A pastor sent 120 subscriptions for the families in his church. Many, many others have sent ten, twenty, forty or fifty subscriptions at a time. And thousands have subscribed for one or more of their neighbors or friends.

So with the real value of *The Sword of the Lord*, and with the loyal help of other Christians who feel as we do about getting out the gospel to every creature possible, the paper has grown by leaps and bounds, and there is every evidence that it will continue to grow.

You Have Friends Who Need the Sword

In Revelation 22:17, is the message of the Lord Jesus to sinners: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come." In other words, while the Holy Spirit calls people, and while the bride calls people, then everybody else who has heard the call of God ought to invite sinners also. And from this we have a right to observe that all who have been blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*, all who have read God's messages therein with real profit to their souls, owe a duty to friends and neighbors to see that they have the same blessing from God. You are accountable to God for helping your pastor, your relatives, Christian leaders in your church, to get acquainted with *The Sword of the Lord*. *The Sword of the Lord* has prospered and increased in usefulness because Christian people have a conscience. They feel a responsibility to other Christians. They feel a responsibility to get out the gospel, to help stir people to pray, to win souls, to live a separated life. They feel an urge from God to help establish people in faith in the Word of God. By subscribing for *The Sword of the Lord* for others, you can do a tremendous lot for the furtherance of the gospel.

You have a duty to God, a duty to loved ones and friends, to help them to be the best Christians possible. To that end we urge you to make a list of some who ought to receive *The Sword of the Lord* and subscribe for them. When \$1.50 will bring fifty-two issues of *The Sword of the Lord* to a home, with some two hundred sermons and Bible studies, besides accounts of great revivals, answers to Bible questions, etc., surely nothing you could buy for \$1.50 would be more apt to prove of life-transforming value.

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We will send a premium copy of the book free for each two subscriptions.

What Is In The Free Book?

A dear woman who lives in Wheaton was reading this book, *The Coming Kingdom of Christ*, recently with great blessing. She told the author, "I sat up late at night, 'way past my bedtime, reading this thrilling book. It took away so many of my fears and troubles and worries to know what wonderful things God is going to do for the world when Jesus comes. I had to turn over to the back to see how some things will come out; I could not wait until I read through the book." We believe you will find the book as fascinating as this good Christian woman finds it. What a pity that many of the rich teachings of the Bible concerning the second coming of Christ, the re-establishment of David's throne in Jerusalem, the regathering of the Jews to Palestine, where Christ will reign over them, and all the things that lead up to this thousand-year reign of Christ on earth—what a pity that what the Bible teaches on these questions is unknown to so many! There has been so much false teaching, so much speculation and guess-work, so much arguing about incidental and inconsequential points, that many good people have missed the sweetness of God's teaching. Here you have it in this book, collected and explained, beginning at the book of Genesis and going right on through the Old Testament and the New Testament. Every point is proven by many Scriptures. One third of the book is actual Scripture quotations!

The following are the fifteen chapter headings:

- I. Blessings In The Study Of Prophecy.
- II. God's Covenant With Abraham: His Seed To Possess Canaan Forever.
- III. Israel To Be Restored As A Nation.
- IV. When Will Israel Be Regathered And Converted? At Christ's Coming!
- V. David's Kingdom Over Israel To Be Restored Forever.
- VI. Jesus To Be King Of The Jews On David's Throne.
- VII. The Kingdom Postponed Until The King Returns.
- VIII. The Kingdom Of Christ On Earth Is Yet Future.
- IX. Eternal Promises To The City, Jerusalem.
- X. World-Wide Righteousness, Peace And Prosperity Promised In Christ's Kingdom.
- XI. The Saved And Glorified To Reign With Christ On Earth After His Coming.
- XII. Some Unsaved On Earth, In Natural Bodies, During Millennium.
- XIII. What Must Come Before The Kingdom—Looking For Jesus.

XIV. Signs Of The Coming of Christ.

XV. Get Ready For Christ's Coming.

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214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

With the Evangelist

(Continued from page six)
church, the life-blood will be stopped and it is only a matter of time until the church will die out altogether.

A Careful Test

On a Sunday night about three weeks ago, when I was holding a meeting in the Temple Baptist Church in Duluth, Minnesota, I decided to make a test of the audience for the purpose of impressing the people concerning the importance of evangelistic meetings. We had just concluded the invitation, during which several had given their hearts to the Lord, and the church was packed to capacity, balcony and all. I asked the audience to be seated, and then requested those who had accepted Christ in a prayer meeting to stand to their feet. One woman stood. Following this I asked all those who had received Christ in a Sunday School Class to stand, and four or five more stood to their feet. Then I asked all those who had been won for Christ in the home or through personal work to stand, and not more than a half dozen more stood. I then requested all those who had given their hearts to the Lord in a morning worship service, apart from and not during a revival meeting, to stand and there were three more who stood in response to this invitation. Finally I asked all those who had accepted Christ in an evangelistic service to stand, and practically every one in the auditorium responded immediately.

Of course, this is not a new test, for it has been made repeatedly in almost every section of the country and with the same results each time. However, I present it as a fitting illustration to prove again that the most of our churches exist because of revivals, that the majority of our people were converted in evangelistic services, and if these are discontinued, the churches will die.

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"HONOURING PARENTS..."

(Continued from page three)

come later to his own marriage altar as pure and clean as was his bride.

I tell you that the proper honor and respect for father and mother guarantees a holy attitude toward sex and marriage.

I remember hearing Dr. Robert G. Lee tell how he went to South America to make money in order to finish his college work. His mother stood with her hands upon his shoulders and looked into his eyes and said to him something like this: "Bob, you will be a long way from home. But when you come back I am going to look into your eyes, and I can tell if you have dishonored your mother and God." The now famous preacher went to South America. There were all the loneliness, the heart-hunger, the temptations of a far-off land and a ribald companionship. But he lived straight, and when he came home he came to face his mother. She put her hands upon his shoulders again and he said to her, "Mother, look into my face. I have lived clean and straight. I never took a drink. I never gambled a dollar. I never laid a hand on a woman!" And the mother looked into her son's eyes and was satisfied. I am saying that proper honoring of parents guarantees a moral and Christian attitude of reverence toward sex and marriage and home.

I have six lovely daughters. I would never willingly give one of them into the arms and keeping of a young man who did not honor his own father and mother.

4. *Honoring parents passes on all the moral and spiritual inheritance of one generation to the next, prevents the decay of civilization.*

It is a tragedy unspeakable when godly parents find their children do not follow in their footsteps. It is unspeakably sad when temperate parents find their sons to become drunkards, their daughters to be licentious and impure. And why do these things happen? They happen because children do not honor their fathers and mothers.

A praying father and mother are important.

A father and mother who demand and receive respect and honor are even more important! And that is because making children obedient is more important than asking God to do what we would not do. I believe in prayer when it is backed up by obedient action. I do not believe that God pays much attention to the prayers of a father and mother who will not do what God said about making their children obedient.

It is only by honoring parents that children can carry on to the next generation the spiritual and moral inheritance of their father's generation. That is part of the meaning of the promise connected with the fifth commandment. That promise says, "that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." A great, sustained, morally great civilization can only be continued where children honor their parents. Otherwise, nations decay, morality wanes, and a nation comes to ruin.

A striking example of this carry-over of the deep religious convictions and righteous principles of the father into succeeding generations is that furnished by the Rechabites, during the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah. Jeremiah, chapter 35 tells us about it. For an example Jeremiah was commanded, "Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink" (Jer. 35:2). And did these

sons of the Rechabites drink wine? They did not! "But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever" (Jer. 35:6). Other commandments likewise did these men observe, given to them generations before by Jonadab, the son of Rechab. They passed on the moral and spiritual inheritance of one generation to the next. How great would be our country if children honored their fathers and mothers so that each generation should grow upon the foundation laid before it by their fathers and mothers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I want to lay on your heart two great lessons.

First, parents themselves must see that children honor them. Children will not of their own accord do right without teaching and training. Parents must take it as the first Christian duty to their children, to require obedience. There should be much prayer, much Bible teaching, day by day godly example. But more will be required, and whatever else is required parents must do to insure the honor and obedience of children for parents. Parents should both earn and compel the obedience and respect and honor of their children. The greatest disservice the father and mother could ever do the beloved child is to allow him to grow up in his own way. All the virtues and all the blessings we hold dear are largely summed up in honoring father and mother.

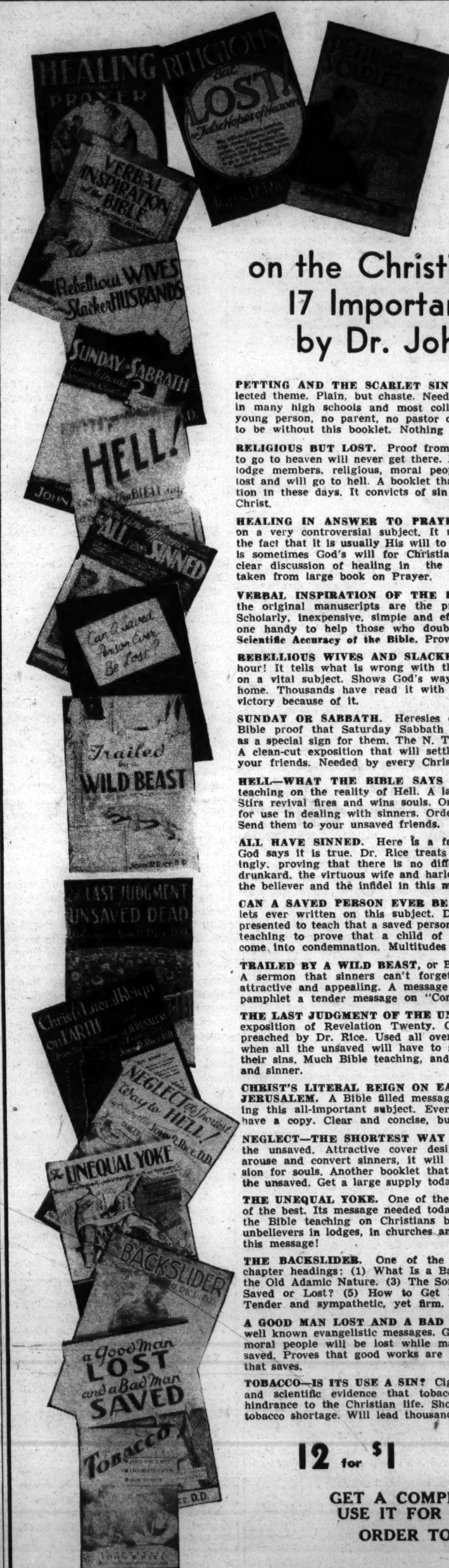
And, second, I would lay on the heart of every man or woman who reads this that the final and best way you can honor your parents is by turning to your mother's God and your father's God. Some who read this today had godly parents who are now in heaven. With what longing and what concern they look upon you, left in this world. How grieved they must be over your sins, over your rejection of Jesus Christ! Nothing you could do in this world would so please them and so honor their memory as to turn to their God, accept their Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, as your own Saviour, and set out to meet them in Heaven.

What matters the money you may spend on your aged parents, if their hearts are broken over your sinful rejection of Christ? What matters the attention, the kindness shown father and mother when your wicked heart goes against their dearest wishes in continuing in sin?

Someone who reads this today ought to go to your knees in humble confession of your sin before God, ought to sincerely repent of your sin and trust Christ to save you. Then when you have trusted your poor sinful soul into the hands of Christ Jesus, after you have depended on Christ to forgive you and save you as He promised to do, you should write your dear mother and say that her prayers are answered. Or you should write to your dear father and tell him that you have heeded his pleadings and followed his counsel and will meet him in Heaven.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

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